

AN ACT

relating to a fixed tuition rate program for certain students who transfer to a state university after completing an associate degree program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.016 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.016. FIXED TUITION RATE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN TRANSFER STUDENTS AT GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS. (a)

In this section:

(1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "General academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(3) "Lower-division institution of higher education" means a public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute.

(b) A general academic teaching institution may develop a fixed tuition rate program for qualified students who agree to transfer to the institution within 12 months after successfully earning an associate degree at a lower-division institution of higher education. Under a program developed under this section, a general academic teaching institution must:

(1) guarantee to a participating student enrolled in

1 an associate degree program at a lower-division institution of
2 higher education, on successful completion of the associate degree
3 program, transfer admission to the general academic teaching
4 institution within the period prescribed above; and

5 (2) notwithstanding any other provision of this
6 chapter, charge tuition to a participating student for any semester
7 or other academic term during a period of at least 24 months
8 following the student's initial enrollment in the institution at
9 the same rate the general academic teaching institution would have
10 charged to the student during the later of:

11 (A) the fall semester of the student's freshman
12 year at another institution of higher education had the student
13 entered the general academic teaching institution as a freshman
14 student; or

15 (B) the fall semester of the second academic year
16 preceding the academic year of the student's initial enrollment in
17 the general academic teaching institution.

18 (c) A general academic teaching institution that develops a
19 fixed tuition rate program under this section shall prescribe
20 eligibility requirements for participation in the program and
21 notify applicants for transfer admission from lower-division
22 institutions of higher education regarding the program.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2999 was passed by the House on May 3, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2999 on May 25, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2999 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor